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YOU DON'T SAY...

"When one creates a Facebook page, one generally opens a digital space for the exchange of ideas and information."

U.S. District Court Judge James C. Cacheris, on a Virginia lawsuit that could determine whether government officials can block people on social media forums.

THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 11/29/17

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News Summary

Pipeline Delay

The planned Atlantic Coast Pipeline, already more than a year behind schedule, could face further delays as North Carolina officials once again seek additional information on the project's potential impacts to the communities the pipeline will traverse. The N.C. Department of Environmental Quality on Wednesday sent the pipeline's developers a fourth round of questions about the economic benefits and environmental risks of the project. The unusual repeat request gives pipeline officials 30 days to respond and gives the agency 60 days to review their response.

The energy consortium building the pipeline includes Charlotte-based Duke Energy and Dominion Energy in Richmond, Va. The proposed 600-mile pipeline would cross West Virginia, Virginia and North Carolina to bring natural gas from northern fracking operations to fuel Duke's power plants in North Carolina and South Carolina. Duke said the Atlantic Coast Pipeline will submit a response in less than 30 days. "We're working on a response to the NC DEQ's data request and will submit it in short order," Duke said in a statement. "We don't expect an impact to the overall project schedule."

Department of Environmental Quality spokeswoman Bridget Munger said the answers could spark further inquiries. "It really will depend on whether they provide the information requested, and once staff has reviewed it, what additional questions they will have," Munger said of the timeline.

In North Carolina, the project requires an air quality permit to operate a compressor station in Northampton County that will help push the gas through the pipeline. The air quality permit is expected to be issued Dec. 15. It also requires a water quality permit to allow the underground pipeline to cross several hundred streams, creeks and other bodies of water. This permit hinges on the Atlantic Coast Pipeline's responses to the fourth set of questions. The agency is asking for information previously requested but not adequately answered by the Atlantic Coast Pipeline.

The Department of Environmental Quality is looking for details on economic benefits to specific areas along the pipeline's route, as opposed to generalizations about economic benefits. The agency wants a forecast of future economic conditions with the pipeline and without the pipeline, along with an analysis of the two forecasts, and an explanation of the logic on which the analysis is based. The agency also wants additional information on the pipeline's end point, which was originally proposed in Robeson County. Atlantic Coast Pipeline officials later suggested that the pipeline would be extended to South Carolina at some point.

The pipeline review has generated about 15,000 public comments to the Department of Environmental Quality. Additionally, nearly 5,000 public comments missed the agency's deadline, arriving after the public comment period closed, Munger said.

Property owners in Wilson and Nash counties are part of a federal lawsuit claiming Federal Energy Regulatory Commission certificates issued to the Atlantic Coast Pipeline and the Mountain Valley Pipeline are in violation of the Natural Gas Act and the U.S. Constitution. Led by Bold Alliance, some seven groups and 95 people, mostly property owners in West Virginia, Virginia and North Carolina, filed suit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia against the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, its Chairman Neil Chatterjee, Commissioners Cheryl Lafleur and Robert Powelson, the Mountain Valley Pipeline and the Atlantic Coast Pipeline LLC.

According to the suit, FERC's certificate program and its "gatekeeping" role in safeguarding the use of eminent domain under the Natural Gas Act "falls short in many ways." Among them, the commission does not require pipeline companies to demonstrate that their projects serve the public use. The suit

says that FERC does not inform affected property owners "that they must intervene to avoid waiving the right to challenge FERC's grant of certificate."

The plaintiffs are asking the court to declare the certificates of necessity and convenience for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline and the Mountain Valley Pipeline as unlawful. Currently, the ACP is seeking approval for a sedimentation control plan from the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality's Division of Energy, Mineral and Land Resources. (John Murawski, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, and Drew C. Wilson, THE WILSON TIMES, 11/29/17)

Election Complaint

Resources: [Sharpsburg Election Protest](#)

The Southern Coalition for Social Justice is helping a mayoral candidate seek a new election after a polling place ran out of ballots for more than two hours, making it difficult for some voters to participate. The group, known for its role in redistricting lawsuits and civil rights cases, says it's involved because the affected voters were from an African-American neighborhood, and the African-American candidate for mayor lost by only three votes.

The candidate, Robert Williams, filed a formal protest Nov. 21 with the Wilson County Board of Elections, which hasn't yet held a hearing on the request for a new election. Williams was challenging the incumbent mayor in Sharpsburg, a town of about 2,000 people located between Wilson and Rocky Mount. Sharpsburg is split between three counties -- Nash, Edgecombe and Wilson -- and the voters living in the Wilson County section of town were required to vote at a polling place in Elm City, about six miles away. According to the complaint, the Wilson County Board of Elections only printed 12 Sharpsburg ballots, even though 200 registered voters were eligible to participate at the site.

"It took election officials two and a half hours to print and deliver additional ballots to the Elm City Elementary polling place," the complaint says. "By that time, many qualified Sharpsburg voters had left the polling place without voting, and many of those who left were unable to come back later in the day because of their work schedules, lack of transportation, and the distance between the polling place in Elm City and their homes in Sharpsburg." Williams and the Coalition note that others didn't try to vote after they heard about the ballot shortage, and the majority of voters in the affected precinct are African-American.

In the past, election officials have extended polling hours when similar voting problems have occurred, but the filing says that didn't happen even though Wilson County and state election officials were aware of the problem. Wilson County elections director Rena' Morris said the ballot shortage "occurred due to an erroneous statistics report that I use to order ballots according to the number of registered voters eligible to vote each ballot style." Morris said the county board will hold a preliminary meeting on the complaint today (Thursday) at 5 p.m.

The state elections board is currently vacant because of a lawsuit brought by Gov. Roy Cooper and is unable to act on any requests to extend voting hours, agency attorney Josh Lawson said. "Staff are not authorized to order an hours extension in place of State Board members," he said in an email. "Without a seated State Board, only the courts could extend hours on Election Day. Under ordinary circumstances -- as in the past -- staff would brief State Board members, who would meet in-person or telephonically and vote on an hours extension." County boards don't have legal authority to extend voting hours without state approval.

The Sharpsburg case is the only municipal election protest this year involving the Southern Coalition for Social Justice. Asked why the group took the case, staff attorney Emily Seawell said "all too often we see black voters being denied their ability to elect their candidates of choice and to people of color being able to serve in elected office. We want to help make sure voters have a fair chance to participate in their local elections." The town of Sharpsburg is about 59 percent African-American, according to Census data. Incumbent Mayor Randy Weaver, who is white, received 139 votes, while Williams received 136 votes. Of the 70 votes cast in the Wilson County section, 86 percent were for

Williams.

While the complaint asks the Wilson County Board of Elections to call for a new election, the board doesn't have the power to do so -- county boards make recommendations to the state elections board, which decides whether to schedule a new election. A recent memo from Lawson says the vacant state board means requests for a new election must be forwarded to Wake County Superior Court. The complaint from Williams says his attorneys at the Coalition plan to take the request to a Superior Court judge after the county board makes its recommendation.

Sharpsburg isn't the only request for a new election that's likely headed to Superior Court. In Boone, a complaint seeks a new election because a dispute among Watauga County election board members meant that early voting sites changed at the last minute with little advance notice -- in part because there was no state elections board to rule on the dispute and the matter went to court. The Watauga County board dismissed the case on Nov. 20, and attorneys for the voter who filed the protest want to appeal. Lawson has advised them to take their case to Superior Court, but in a letter dated Monday, attorney Nathan Miller disagrees, arguing that the law requires state elections board to rule first before the appeal can head to court. Miller calls on Cooper to appoint state board members, and that until that happens and a new state board takes action, he says the Boone election results can't be certified -- and therefore the newly elected town leaders can't take office. (Colin Campbell, THE INSIDER, 11/30/17)

Cardinal Severance

Cardinal Innovations Healthcare Solutions has paid the four executives their severance packages even though the agency was ordered not to by state officials, according to a letter by the state's health secretary. Dr. Mandy Cohen's letter was addressed to the co-chairs of legislative oversight healthcare committees. Cohen spoke with the co-chairs over the Thanksgiving holiday period before ordering Monday the operational takeover of Cardinal by state health officials and the removal of the Cardinal board of directors. Monday was the last day for the four Cardinal executives, including executive director Richard Topping. Topping was fired by the Cardinal board on Nov. 17, although the board chose to allow him to stay in his job until Dec. 1. The overall \$3.8 million in severance payments, which Cohen described as "exorbitant," were made "despite explicit instructions to the Cardinal board of directors regarding the lawful management of public funds."

On Wednesday, the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services released a statement that said, "DHHS staff (has) discovered documents that raise serious concerns about proposed financial activities by former board leadership and the former (executive director)."

Special Deputy Attorney General Michael Wood told a judge that former CEO Richard Topping and two former board members shared emails over the weekend that suggest they had a plan to keep agency money from the state. The emails were released in a Mecklenburg County Court filing Wednesday when a judge granted a temporary restraining order against Topping and 11 former board members. State officials accused Topping and the others of trying to get access to Cardinal money before the state seized control, court documents show. The Cardinal leaders sent the emails before the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services took over Cardinal on Monday and removed the board. The ousted board chair, Lucy Drake, said she didn't expect the state to take over the agency but worried about DHHS seizing Cardinal's fund balance.

In one email that Topping sent Sunday, he told Drake that officials had an idea that would mean taking action before "the state raids -- whether legal or not -- the fund balance."

"If the money is gone, they have to chase it," Topping wrote. "Since they don't have a legal right to it, they'll never get it. If they already have it, it will be much harder to go get it back."

Drake replied a few hours later, "Whatever we need to do to get this done. I'm in. Our funds are needing to get secured for certain."

After citing the email chain between Topping and the former board members, Wood told the judge the restraining order was needed to protect public money. "This sounds like insiders between the board and the company worried about the state coming in, as we've done, and doing something with funds in Cardinal accounts before the state could get to them," Wood said. Wood refused an interview request after the hearing, saying he was not authorized to speak to the press.

DHHS said in the statement that the agency pursued the restraining order "out of an abundance of caution in the protection of taxpayer dollars."

"Based on this information, DHHS filed and was granted a temporary restraining order in Mecklenburg County to ensure that former board members and the former (executive director) have no access to Cardinal's funds."

Cohen said payment of the severance packages led "DHHS to conclude that we can no longer rely on the board and executive leadership at Cardinal Innovations to bring Cardinal into compliance with its legal requirements."

Dave Richard, deputy health secretary and head of the state's Medicaid program, said that "DHHS will issue a demand letter to Cardinal for payment from their administrative funds (of) the amount paid in severance to the CEO and any other member of Cardinal's leadership."

Several legislative leaders from both parties are encouraging Cohen to pursue legal actions to either retrieve the severance package funding along with seeking reimbursement from administrative costs.

"I'm not certain how those funds will be recovered," said Sen. Joyce Krawiec, R-Forsyth, and a health care oversight committee member. "As long as Cardinal is held accountable to the taxpayers and it's done in a transparent manner, I believe citizens will feel as if we are moving in the right direction."

Sen. Tommy Tucker, R-Union, co-chairman of a legislative oversight health care committee, said that when DHHS provided Cardinal management and its board with a corrective action plan in October, Cardinal chose not to embrace it. "They had clearly lost sight of their mission to serve, and Topping became toxic to the whole organization, so Secretary Cohen had the legislative blessing to take these steps," Tucker said. (Richard Craver, WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL, and Cassie Cope and Fred Clasen-Kelly, THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER, 11/29/17)

Cardinal Reaction

When the state Department of Health and Human Services made the surprise move Monday to take over Cardinal Innovations, many long-time observers of changes in the state's mental health system had the same thought: "Finally."

Rep. Nelson Dollar, R-Wake, one of the primary architects of the state's mental health managed care system, said that there had been questions raised by legislative oversight committees for "some time."

"We all wish that Cardinal and their board had acted differently all along to a range of concerns brought to their attention," he said Tuesday. He quickly noted that many of the front line staff do good work, but he had long-term frustrations with the organization's leadership.

Through its history, Cardinal has often gone its own way. Leaders at the organization seemed impervious to criticism about agency spending and about the way they presented themselves and their agency. They long insisted that Cardinal did not need to adhere to state rules.

Laurie Coker is angry about the way Cardinal has seemed deaf to repeated requests for input from county commissioners, mental health patients, their families and even the state over the years. She also sat on the board of Centerpoint, an LME-MCO absorbed by Cardinal last year. Through both appointments, she flagged the need for more input from counties and mental health consumers.

"[Cardinal] needed help to understand that because they're publicly run means that they'd have a special set of publicly accountable behaviors, and they weren't just operating out of the goodness of their hearts," she said. "Instead, I'm watching it unroll just as I thought it would."

"This behavior has been part and parcel of a certain perspective that view Cardinal as something other than a public entity," said Mark Botts, a legal analyst from the UNC School of Government who specializes in North Carolina mental health law. Botts began raising questions around the same time as Coker. Botts has continued to advise lawmakers that Cardinal is a fully public entity, not a private contractor with the state government.

Botts recounted pressing DHHS Sec. Mandy Cohen at a public meeting this spring about when DHHS would move against Cardinal. At the time, she deflected the question, he said. But Cohen said Cardinal's consistent flouting of state rules, Topping's and the board's defiance of her agency's attempts to rein them in, with the added tussle over Topping's salaries finally pushed her to act this past week.

"What was concerning here was the continued pattern, that we would identify issues that needed to be addressed, and they were either not addressed or they moved further away from where they needed to be," Cohen said. "In fact [the board] had signaled to us that they were not willing to make the changes to take the organization in a new direction."

Cohen said that for an organization that had its start-up funds from the state, received a state mandate to function, and operated with state funds, it's obvious to her that her agency is in the right.

"Their ongoing defense of their work... makes it more evident why we needed to make the change," she said. (Rose Hoban, NC HEALTH NEWS, 11/29/17)

Christmas Trees

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas at the Legislative Building and the state Capitol. Workers were spotted Wednesday adding lights to Christmas trees at the legislature and on the grounds of the old Capitol. Legislative Services Officer Paul Coble said this year's trees -- at the entrance to the Legislative Building, at the top of the red stairs and in the Legislative Office Building -- came from Jennings Christmas Trees in Avery County.

The State Capitol has its largest tree facing Fayetteville Street, and it's from Peak Farms in Ashe County, purchased with a sponsorship from City Club Raleigh, according to Department of Natural and Cultural Resources spokeswoman Fay Mitchell. Gov. Roy Cooper is holding a contest among growers to determine whose trees will be showcased inside the Capitol. Cooper will receive the trees in the contest on Friday, Mitchell said. (Colin Campbell, THE INSIDER, 11/30/17)

Cape Fear Chemicals

Regulators are a step closer to understanding how much of a pair of chemical byproducts from operations at Chemours' Fayetteville Works plant can be found in the Cape Fear River, according to an N.C. Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) spokesman. "The (Environmental Protection Agency's) Athens, Georgia, lab now has an internal lab standard for the two Nafion byproducts and in the next few weeks will be analyzing water samples collected in the lower Cape Fear by the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality for the two byproducts," Jamie Kritzer, the DEQ spokesman, said. DEQ expects to receive the first round of test results in mid-December. Those results will be based on water samples collected the week of October 16.

The perfluorinated compounds, known as Nafion Byproduct 1 and Nafion Byproduct 2, were first detected by the EPA in late August, with scientists at the federal agency's Research Triangle Park expressing concern that concentrations were not falling even as GenX and associated compounds were declining. Those concentrations were, according to prior DEQ press releases, estimations

because the lab standard had not yet been established.

As with GenX, typical water treatment plants -- including the Cape Fear Public Utility Authority (CFPUA) and Brunswick County utilities -- cannot remove the Nafion substances from water before distributing it to customers. And also like GenX, there is little to no information about the potential health effects of these compounds. (Adam Wagner, WILMINGTON STAR-NEWS, 11/29/17)

Social Media

The ACLU of North Carolina wants to have a say in a Virginia lawsuit that could determine whether government officials can block people on social media forums. On Monday, the ACLU branches in North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, South Carolina and West Virginia filed a so-called "friend of the court" brief with the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. The states want to weigh in on a case in which a Virginia man sued a Loudon County, Va., school board member, contending his free speech rights had been violated when he was blocked from her Facebook page. U.S. District Court Judge James C. Cacheris ruled earlier this year that the Facebook page of Phyllis Randall, the school board member, served as a public forum in which government cannot engage in "viewpoint discrimination."

By squelching the speech of a critic who disagreed with her while allowing supportive comments, the judge ruled, Randall "committed a cardinal sin under the First Amendment." Randall has appealed the ruling to the 4th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals, which reviews cases from a five-state region including Virginia and North Carolina. A ruling in the Virginia case could have an impact on North Carolina, and with that in mind the ACLU of North Carolina has asked for permission to participate in the arguments.

"As our democracy increasingly moves online, it is crucial that courts properly apply existing First Amendment law to the digital acts of government to ensure that the Internet does not offer the government a haven to bypass constitutional rules," the ACLU attorneys said in the brief filed this week. "The two core First Amendment principles at issue here -- first that an individual does not lose her First Amendment rights upon gaining public office and, second, that the government cannot limit access to a forum, public information, or public services based on viewpoint -- can be reconciled."

Irena Como, a staff attorney with the ACLU of North Carolina, said the Virginia case is one of great interest for civil liberties advocates across the country. "This is something that has come up again and again with the increased civic participation that we've seen post-election," Como said. "A lot of our First Amendment activity is now happening online." (Anne Blythe, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 11/29/17)

Prison Radios

Prison officer Sierra Gravitte found herself in a bind. She was the only officer inside a locked unit at Polk Correctional Institution, north of Durham, two years ago when she ordered an inmate into his cell. He refused. Gravitte pulled out her radio to call for backup -- but it wouldn't work. Instead, the radio emitted a beeping noise signaling a low battery. Hearing that, the inmate approached Gravitte. The inmate didn't attack Gravitte. But for about 15 minutes, she said, she was trapped inside the prison block with about seven inmates -- and no way to communicate with other officers.

"They could have ... raped me or killed me and nobody would have known," said Gravitte, who resigned from the prison earlier this year after four years on the job. "We need radios to work. Or people get hurt." In interviews with the Observer, more than a dozen current and former prison employees described a potentially life-threatening problem: The two-way radios that officers are issued often don't work properly, leaving them without a crucial safety tool.

The disclosures -- made by officers who worked at nine different prisons -- come during a deadly time for North Carolina's prison employees. Since April, five workers have died as a result of attacks inside the prisons. In response to questions from the Observer, a spokeswoman for the state Department of Public Safety said that managers have directed all prisons "to inventory and assess

their radios and PA systems."

But prison leaders say better technology has made radios more reliable, and that only 5 percent of radios now malfunction. They say they are quick to repair and replace broken radios. "The Secretary's Office and Prisons Administration understand that working equipment and especially working radios are critical to correctional officers and strongly encourage officers to report any issues to his/her immediate supervisor so radios can be promptly repaired or replaced," wrote spokeswoman Pamela Walker.

The number of serious assaults on prison workers has risen sharply in recent years. As of early November, there were 69 assaults that resulted in injuries so severe that they forced staff members to miss work days, according to the state Department of Public Safety. That was 50 percent higher than the number reported in all of 2012. (Ames Alexander and Gavin Off, THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER, 11/29/17)

Durham Mayor

In 1972, at age 31, Bill Bell ran for Durham County Commissioner and won. He was one of two African-American commissioners on the five-member board. In 1982, he became chair. Bell lost his re-election bid in 1994, which was also the mid-term elections during the Clinton administration when Republicans swept many elected offices. But he ran again in 1996, and won, and again in 1998. But he didn't seek another term in 2000, instead running for mayor in 2001. He won every re-election bid thereafter, and announced after winning again in 2015 that it would be his last term.

Bell will likely be most remembered for the transformation of downtown Durham from boarded-up windows to boutique hotels and tech startups. Since he was sworn into office in 2001, more than \$1.7 billion in public and private investments have been injected into downtown, according to Downtown Durham Inc.

"The single most unappreciated value of Mayor Bell was that this was not a politician that became a mayor," said Casey Steinbacher, a former CEO of the Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce. "It was a businessman who became a mayor and learned how to become a politician."

It's a recurring theme as people describe the quiet-and-reserved Bell as a calming force behind the scene, when projects such as the American Tobacco Campus and the Durham Performing Arts Center were being planned. Those projects were catalysts -- along with the Durham Bulls Athletic Park, which was built before he was mayor -- for changing the image of downtown and making it a destination, Bell said.

Gov. Roy Cooper said Bell has been a "catalyst for positive change" for Durham's accomplishments as the city of medicine, in arts and culture, and in innovation. "It's important we recognize the great work he's done. (Mayor-elect Steve) Schewel can build on it," Cooper said. Bell has been a facilitator and consensus builder, which you need to move forward, he said.

Rep. Mickey Michaux, D-Durham, said Bell, his former neighbor, has moved Durham a lot further along than many thought possible. "Bill is not a flamboyant individual. He's a smooth, undercover type of individual who knew how to get things done," Michaux said. "He knew how to ingratiate himself to a whole lot of folks. People liked him and that's how he was able to get things done."

But, not every part of Durham has succeeded under Bell as much as downtown. The poverty rate in the city has increased from 15 percent to more than 19 percent since he became mayor, a number "too large for a city of our size with our resources," Bell concedes. In addition, the thriving downtown he helped spark has caused home prices to skyrocket in surrounding neighborhoods, drawing criticism of gentrification.

"I think the next piece is really the issue of affordable housing," Bell said. "We can do downtown, but

we can't forget those who don't live in downtown." (Dawn Baumgartner Vaughan and Zachery Eanes, THE DURHAM HERALD-SUN, 11/29/17)

Henderson Sewage

Officials in Buncombe and Henderson counties have had trouble sharing water, but may be headed to an agreement to combine sewer services that would affect residents and businesses in Fletcher and Mills River. The Woodfin-based government utility that treats sewage from most of Buncombe County, the Metropolitan Sewerage District, is considering expanding to take in a much smaller agency that serves northern Henderson County. MSD already treats sewage from the Cane Creek Water and Sewer District under a contract and Henderson County commissioners have requested that MSD take over the agency.

Some Buncombe officials are concerned about how much control Henderson County would have over the combined utility and by a recently authorized legislative study of laws on government providers of water and sewer that might affect MSD or the Asheville water system. Those issues have slowed, but not stopped, consideration of MSD taking over Cane Creek. MSD's board had been on the verge of moving ahead with the expansion process but voted Nov. 15 to instead consult with local governments in Buncombe County first. They are scheduled to return to the issue Dec. 20.

The state General Assembly earlier this year passed a bill sponsored by Rep. Chuck McGrady, R-Henderson, that would add three seats for Henderson County residents to the 12-member MSD board if MSD takes over Cane Creek. Earlier this month, a legislative commission approved a statewide study sought by McGrady of local government water and sewer charges, whether government utilities are properly maintained and funded and whether combining utilities would make them more efficient and financially stable. McGrady is a co-chair of the study.

Chris Pelly, a former Asheville city councilman who sits on the MSD board, said the utility has the capacity to take over the Cane Creek system, but he is concerned by the disproportionate influence Henderson residents would have on the MSD board. MSD has about 50,000 customers and 3,700 are served by Cane Creek.

The law McGrady got passed this year would mean Henderson County would control 20 percent of the seats on the MSD board even though only about 7 percent of the customers of the expanded MSD would be in Henderson. Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer, Weaverville Mayor Al Root and Woodfin Mayor Jerry VeHaun, all members of the MSD board, said the composition of the MSD board after expansion is also an issue for them. (Mark Barrett, ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES, 11/29/17)

Development Suit

Raiford Trask, a Wilmington developer who has asked the state to build a satellite aquarium facility on the site of his private Blake Farm development, is embroiled in a lawsuit with business partners over that Pender County development. Trask, operating under a limited liability company called Pender Farm Development, sued his partner, NDCO LLC of Colorado Springs, Colo., represented by attorney Michael Cook, claiming the other company defaulted on a loan and was unwilling to work toward a resolution, imperiling the development.

"In virtually every instance in which Trask attempted to schedule a meeting ... he was rebuffed and rejected, with various scheduling conflicts and personal reasons frequently cited as reasons for the NDCO members' continued delay in agreeing to meet," the suit claims.

The other company filed a countersuit claiming Trask defaulted his obligations under an operating agreement, including purchasing adjacent land by a "competing" company owned by Trask while failing to pursue development of the overall property, causing NDCO \$25,000 in damages.

The two companies share ownership in an LLC called "Pender 1164" representing 1,164 acres that would be developed as part of Blake Farm, a huge mixed-use development that's proposed to feature

more than 2,000 homes as well as offices and retail space just north of the New Hanover County line in Scotts Hill. Another part of Blake Farm -- most of it the office and retail space where the aquarium is proposed to be -- is on another tract owned by Trask. As part of the development, Trask proposed that the state build a satellite aquarium on Blake Farm, an idea that has drawn controversy, with state legislators questioning its need and the idea becoming the subject of an ethics complaint. (Tim Buckland, WILMINGTON STAR-NEWS, 11/29/17)

Flight Fee

If your next airline ticket costs more than expected, check out the latest fees Congress wants you to pay. The Passenger Facility Charge, a fee added to airline tickets to pay for airport improvements, is currently capped at \$4.50 per leg. That rate could nearly double as soon as Christmas week, under the federal budget now being crafted by Washington lawmakers. Though Congress authorizes the rate, individual airports set the precise fee. Consumers rarely know it, since it is folded into airlines' ticket rates.

"Passenger facilities are not adequate for today's level of traffic. Of course, they're going to ask passengers to pay for it. Who else? We wind up paying for everything," said Douglas Kidd, executive director of the National Association of Airline Passengers, a nonpartisan passenger advocacy organization created in 2010. The current \$4.50 cap hasn't been increased since 2001, thanks to aggressive lobbying by the airlines, who say adding the fee to ticket prices hurts their ability to keep fares low.

Airline officials argue airports have plenty of other funding sources for their projects, including the Airport Improvement Program, which gives federal grants for airport safety and efficiency updates. Airport interests have fought hard for the fee increase, saying they desperately need that money to update technology and amenities at older airports.

Raleigh-Durham International Airport raised its rate from \$3 to \$4.50 in 2004. The airport collects about \$22 million per year from the fee and it all goes to paying debt service on Terminal 2, said Michael Landguth, the chairman and CEO of the Raleigh-Durham Airport Authority. "The consumer will actually pay for what they actually use. When they pay \$4.50, just like a movie theater, it's a great way for the consumer to pay directly for the use of that facility," Landguth said. (Andrea Drusch and Brian Murphy, McCLATCHY DC, 11/29/17)

MLS Expansion

Major League Soccer plans to add teams in two new cities this year and Raleigh isn't one of them. MLS announced Wednesday that Cincinnati, Detroit, Nashville and Sacramento are finalists for the two expansion clubs the league will unveil on Dec. 6. Raleigh and Charlotte are among the 12 teams vying for four expansion spots, with the second pair of cities being announced at a later date. North Carolina FC, a Cary-based team that plays in the United Soccer League, is the local franchise hoping to make the jump to the MLS. The team earlier this year proposed to build a stadium on state-owned land in downtown Raleigh and is waiting on elected officials to weigh in. The team released a statement Wednesday morning, saying that it remains in contention for the two expansion spots that will be announced at a later date.

Steve Malik, NCFC's owner, said Wednesday he wasn't surprised by the four cities chosen and that he didn't expect Raleigh to be a finalist this year considering the fact that he's collaborating with state government. "We've been engaged with the state and have worked through a whole lot of due diligence questions they have," Malik said. Meanwhile, "we've had an ongoing dialogue with MLS, so there was nothing surprising at all about it."

NCFC wants to build a \$150 million stadium and entertainment complex at Salisbury and Peace streets. The 13-acre site is part of the sprawling state government complex that includes 450,000 square feet of office space. Malik said state officials have seemed more concerned with moving government employees and buildings than the specifics of his stadium. "There's a lot of concerns

about tearing down buildings and moving people. Frankly, the stadium aspect has been very positive," Malik said. "People see the benefit of it and what it could do for the north end of Raleigh from an economic development standpoint," he continued. "There's also about an additional \$5 million in income taxes from the additional jobs that the state would see as a positive." (Paul A. Specht and J. Mike Blake, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 11/29/17)

Morehead Data Breach

Morehead Memorial Hospital of Eden is dealing with regulatory fallout from a "phishing attack" this summer that jeopardized protected health information belonging to thousands of former patients and employees. The news emerged this week in the hospital's continuing bankruptcy case when its attorney sought permission to pay a Denver law firm specializing in data security to represent it in the "regulatory investigation."

Winston-Salem bankruptcy lawyer Jennifer Lyday submitted paperwork Tuesday seeking court approval of the Denver firm of Norton Rose Fulbright to help with "a regulatory investigation and any other investigations, actions and/or claims arising from a data security incident."

The hospital announced earlier this year that it had learned of an online attack in July that infiltrated the email accounts of two Morehead employees and spreadsheets containing personal information on up to 66,000 patients and hospital workers.

Barnhardt said the Department of Health and Human Services recently inquired about the phishing attack after Morehead officials reported the incident. "We addressed those questions in late October," she said. "The law firm assisted us with those responses. Since that one inquiry, there have been no further questions."

Barnhardt said hospital officials also notified the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security of the data breach, adding that "we have been in communication with the FBI on this matter and addressed all its questions."

She said that, so far, "there have been no lawsuits filed" as a result of the cyber attack. In her petition to pay the Colorado law firm, Lyday refers to the governmental inquiry as if it is still in underway and seeks permission to hire the firm anew, an apparent peculiarity of bankruptcy norms. (Taft Wireback, GREENSBORO NEWS & RECORD, 11/29/17)

Bulls Championship

Who better to celebrate winning the International League's Governors' Cup than with a governor. That's what the Durham Bulls did on Wednesday as North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper traveled to Durham to celebrate their championship season. "When you think of the Durham Bulls, you think of this great city," Cooper said. "The Durham Bulls are iconic. They're known across the country. I thought it was appropriate that we come together to celebrate this national championship. We do it for our schools. Unfortunately, because of the nature of minor league baseball with players dispersed all over the place after the season that we couldn't have them all here. But I think it was important to come together and say 'Thank you,' to the players and to the organization."

Cooper ended his remarks by exhorting the Bulls to go out and win it again next season. "As governor of this state, I want to say congratulations on the success of the Durham Bulls and congratulations on winning this second national championship and let's go get'em again next year," Cooper said. "Go, Bulls."

Bulls general manager Mike Birling announced that the team has extended its player development contract with the Tampa Bay Rays until 2020. The team has been affiliated with the Rays since jumping to Triple-A in 1998 after a long span as the Atlanta Braves' Class A affiliate. (Joe Johnson, THE DURHAM HERALD-SUN, 11/29/17)

Affordable Housing

The tax bill passed by the U.S. House last week would drastically constrict efforts to build and improve homes for low-income families in the Triangle, according to local affordable housing experts. The Republican-backed bill would eliminate the tax-exempt status for bonds that allow private investors to be eligible for tax breaks. This kind of tax-credit financing is critical to large affordable housing efforts in urban areas, including the Triangle, where there is a shortage of homes for low-income residents. If the tax credits are eliminated, advocates say, it will be harder to find investors willing to finance affordable housing.

"The number of units that can be produced will go down," said Gregg Warren, executive director of DHIC, a local nonprofit developer. "That's incredibly frustrating, given the rising demand for affordable housing here in Raleigh."

Last spring, Raleigh's department of housing and neighborhoods recommended approval of 729 tax credit-financed affordable housing units. Of those, 589 relied on tax exemptions that would no longer be available under the House bill, said Larry Jarvis, director of the department. Jarvis sent a memo Nov. 8 to the City Council that included direction from the North Carolina Housing Coalition on how to broach the subject with lawmakers. The coalition estimates the change would cost the state 9,340 affordable homes. Mayor Nancy McFarlane has sent letters urging the state's representatives and senators to preserve the bonds, Jarvis said.

The Senate's tax-reform bill, which is set for a vote on Friday, would keep the tax-exempt bonds. (Henry Gargan, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 11/29/17)

Cone Health Revenue

Cone Health ended fiscal 2016-17 with a 10.8 percent increase in excess revenue to \$66.3 million, the Greensboro not-for-profit healthcare system reported Tuesday. "Excess revenue" in a not-for-profit organization is equivalent to profit in a for-profit organization. The Cone system has six hospitals, 1,254 licensed beds and more than 12,000 employees. The fiscal year ended Sept. 30. The system had \$51.9 million in core operating income, up 55.9 percent from a year ago. Cone issued its report on the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board's website, emma.msrb.org. The Emma reports are aimed primarily at bondholders and ratings agencies and typically are released about two months after the end of a quarter. (Richard Craver, WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL, 11/29/17)

Kidnapping Charge

A North Carolina town commissioner who's already accused of assaulting a man is now charged with kidnapping. WITN-TV in Greenville reports court records show Chocowinity Town Commissioner John "Curt" Jenkins is charged with multiple offenses, including felony second-degree kidnapping. Pitt County Sheriff's Lt. Kip Gaskins says deputies responded to a domestic call around 6:15 p.m. Friday in Grimesland and took out warrants against Jenkins. The 29-year-old Jenkins is jailed on a \$130,000 bond. The Beaufort County Sheriff's Office told local media outlets on Nov. 16 that Curt Jenkins Jr. was charged with assault inflicting serious bodily injury in connection with an incident involving an argument between the victim and a relative of the Jenkins brothers. John Aaron Matthew Jenkins was also charged in the case. (THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, 11/29/17)

H2GO Legal Action

The Leland Town Council voted Wednesday to take legal action to prevent Brunswick Regional Water & Sewer H2GO from transferring its assets to the town of Belville. Tuesday night, the H2GO Board of Commissioners voted to transfer the utility's assets to Belville in a last-ditch effort to salvage the future of H2GO's controversial \$34 million reverse osmosis plant project, which has been threatened by the election of Bill Beer to the H2GO board, who is against the plant.

As a result of the H2GO board's decision, the town of Leland called an emergency meeting Wednesday morning to discuss what course of action to take following H2GO's actions and decided to

authorize the law firm Kilpatrick Townsend to "investigate and initiate a civil action to prevent the transfer of assets by Brunswick Regional Water and Sewer H2GO to the town of Belville."

"I think the town has strong concerns about this action and they have expressed those concerns by virtue of the motion they have adopted and by essentially engaging a law firm to take action to stop this transfer," said town attorney John Wessell. Wessell said the next step will be for the law firm to prepare and file the civil action, which he said should happen in the near future.

H2GO and Leland have had a long-standing feud, earlier this year the Leland Town Council passed a resolution urging H2GO to hold off on construction of the RO plant until after the Nov. 7 election and then challenged a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit issued by the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality to H2GO for the RO plant. Beer, who won a seat on the H2GO board during the Nov. 7 election, said he was shocked and disappointed by the H2GO board's decision to transfer its assets to Belville. (Makenzie Holland, WILMINGTON STAR-NEWS, 11/29/17)

City Cellphones

Giving cell phones to elected Fayetteville city officials has drawn concerns. "To me, that seems like a perk and I'm not into perks," Councilman Jim Arp said. "I'm very sensitive to how we spend the taxpayer's money."

On Tuesday, City Clerk Pamela Megill sent out an email informing elected officials of the decision. Megill wrote that the city's information technology department made the request to help the city comply with state public records laws. She added that city email accounts can be synced to the city-issued cellphones more easily and that IT could have the city emails automatically routed to personal email accounts. Arp said that he is comfortable complying with public records requests for information on his personal cellphone. One future member of the City Council, Tyrone Williams, supported the initiative. Since being elected, he said he has received 30 calls a day from constituents on his personal cellphone, "I'm here to serve the people, but a different phone to handle those calls would be great." (Monica Vendituoli, THE FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER, 11/29/17)

Parade Ban

The leader of a Rowan County gay rights group is accusing organizers of the 58-year-old Holiday Caravan Parade of discrimination after a float she and supporters were to ride on last week was banned from participating. The parade organizers said they had to act because the float's sponsor, Avita Pharmacy, violated the rules by letting a separate group advertise its message with "signage, apparel, fliers" that were not approved beforehand. The separate group was PFLAG, which includes parents of LGBTQ children. Donna Brown Odrosky, president of the group's Salisbury-Rowan chapter, said the parade's organizers objected to her members' attire: rainbow-colored Mardi Gras beads, rainbow designs on their hats and black PFLAG shirts.

Avita, whose customers include HIV patients and which has sponsored PFLAG and Salisbury Pride events, invited Odrosky and three other PFLAG members to join its float after some planned Avita riders indicated they couldn't make the parade. "We were just trying to support Velerie (Levy, the local Avita pharmacy manager) and her work at the pharmacy," said Odrosky. "We feel like we were discriminated against (by parade organizers) because of our shirts and our rainbow jewelry."

PFLAG's ejection from the 140-unit parade, which goes through Spencer and Salisbury, isn't Odrosky's only complaint against organizers of the privately run Holiday Caravan Parade. She said last Wednesday's confrontation follows three years of failed attempts by Salisbury-Rowan PFLAG to get its own float in the parade. Each year, she said, her group has mailed a check to the parade committee to cover the \$200-plus entry fee. All the checks and applications were sent back without explanation, she said.

Wesley Perry, a Rowan businessman who is the main parade organizer, did not return phone calls from the Observer. But an emailed statement from someone at the Holiday Caravan Parade website

said the pharmacy failed to mention that another group would be advertised on its float. (Joe Marusak and Tim Funk, THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER, 11/29/17)

Red Wolves

The second largest population of American red wolves under human care is at the N.C. Zoo. There are 18 American red wolves living at the zoo's off-site breeding area, in addition to the two that are visible to guests. Three pups were born April 18 as part of the park's American red wolf breeding program. Additionally, one of the animal care specialists, Chris Lasher, is the vice coordinator for the Species Survival Plan for American red wolves.

Zoo officials on Tuesday issued a response to the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee's urging a halt to the endangered red wolf program:

"American red wolves were once common throughout the southeastern United States but were driven to near extinction during the late 1960s. Now, they are only found in the wild in mostly eastern North Carolina. The American red wolf is the most endangered canid in the world and is the only wolf indigenous to the United States. The N.C. Zoo plays a key role in its survival ... limiting the American red wolves to Federal lands in one county is not a sustainable plan. (One of the proposed changes is limiting wolves to federal land in Dare County alone instead of the largely private land they now roam in five counties.) We all need to work together to find a way to protect the iconic American red wolf from extinction while minimizing the impact on landowners." (ASHEBORO COURIER-TRIBUNE, 11/28/17)

Forest Speech

Lt. Gov. Dan Forest is scheduled to be the keynote speaker for the December Commencement Ceremony on Dec. 9 at N.C. Wesleyan College. The college will be honoring almost 300 students as they receive their undergraduate degrees. "We are honored that Lt. Gov. Forest accepted our invitation to speak at our December Commencement," Wesleyan President Dr. Dewey Clark said. "With his success in the business world and the public sector, we look forward to his message to our newly minted graduates." Forest was born and raised in Harrisonburg, Va. He earned a bachelor's degree in architecture from the University of North Carolina-Charlotte and formerly served on the UNC-Charlotte College of Architecture Advisory Board. Forest was office president and senior partner of the state's largest architectural firm, Little Diversified Architectural Consulting. (ROCKY MOUNT TELEGRAM, 11/29/17)

Teacher Grants

Duke Energy will join DonorsChoose.org to provide \$175,000 in matching grants for teachers in its service area who wish to foster literacy, as well as mastery in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Public school teachers may submit literacy proposals for students in kindergarten through third grade, as well as STEM project proposals for those in all grades to DonorsChoose.org. Total project goals may not exceed \$1,000, including as much as \$500 from DonorsChoose. The Duke Energy Foundation will match all donations made toward classroom projects, to as much as \$500, until it has pledged \$175,000. (RICHMOND COUNTY DAILY JOURNAL, 11/27/17)

ASU Housing

Appalachian State will soon seek proposals from private developers to build student housing projects totaling around 2,200 to 2,300 beds, university officials confirmed. University leaders say the proposed public-private partnership, also known as a "P3," could help Appalachian replace aging dorms faster and potentially at a lower cost compared with traditional campus housing. Under state law, Millennial Campus designation gives the university the flexibility to enter into agreements with private sector firms to develop campus properties, facilitates issuing bonds to finance development of the properties and allows the university to keep all revenues related to leasing space in the properties. A growing trend at colleges and universities across the country, P3 models vary, with financial structures that include private nonprofits issuing debt and leasing the space, private

companies owning the building and leasing it to universities as well as other investment options. (Anna Oakes, THE WATAUGA DEMOCRAT, 11/29/17)

Science Grant

Martin Millennium Academy in Tarboro has been awarded a \$135,402 grant to expand the teaching of science, technology, engineering and mathematics beyond the normal classroom day. The school applied for and won the three-year grant from the Student Science Enrichment Program funded by Burroughs Wellcome Fund. The grant was open to nonprofit organizations in North Carolina that can offer hands-on STEM experiences to students. As a requirement of the grant, funded STEM activities must take place at times other than the normal school day such as after school, on weekends or during holiday periods. "The teachers at Martin Millennium Academy have a plethora of things they plan to do with this grant," said Dr. Valerie Bridges, superintendent of Edgecombe County Public Schools. "It will be exciting to see what they accomplish." According to the grant application, Martin Millennium Academy plans to develop a "Future Scientists Academy" to "excite and teach scholars about STEM-related careers, especially since the population we serve is inequitably underrepresented in STEM fields." (Amelia Harper, ROCKY MOUNT TELEGRAM, 11/28/17)

Suspended Sheriff

With the near-term future of the Ashe County Sheriff's Office anything but settled, the next legal battle to decide the fate of temporarily suspended Ashe County Sheriff Terry Buchanan is coming into view. That's according to news that multiple individuals central to Buchanan's case have been ordered to attend a Dec. 11 court hearing in Jefferson. Buchanan was temporarily suspended from office with pay by Judge R. Gregory Horne on Oct. 23, after Buchanan was indicted by an Ashe County grand jury on six criminal charges, including three felony counts of obstruction of justice and three misdemeanor counts of willfully failing to discharge his duties.

Horner alleged in a 32-page removal petition that Buchanan essentially launched an illegal investigation into three Ashe County employees -- including Clark, and county IT employees Cyrus Hurley and Todd Chapman -- who were attempting to fulfill a public records request filed by Charlotte-based TV station WBTV earlier this year. (Adam Orr, JEFFERSON POST, 11/29/17)

Zoo Curator

The N.C. Zoo has welcomed Roger Sweeney as its general curator. Sweeney comes to Asheboro from the Virginia Zoo, where he was an assistant director responsible for overseeing the departments of animal care, veterinary services, facilities maintenance, horticulture, security and administration of all City of Norfolk-funded departments of the zoo since 2011. He also maintains an active involvement with field projects in the Caribbean and the Philippines. A native of Chester, England, Sweeney began working as a zookeeper in England after nurturing an interest in the natural world from a young age. He has spent more than 25 years working in zoo and wildlife biology positions in England, the Philippines, Spain, Qatar, the Caribbean and North America. Sweeney has had significant involvement in both the European (EAZA) and North American (AZA) zoo communities. (ASHEBORO COURIER-TRIBUNE, 11/29/17)

Hatteras Ferry

A Seattle-based company has released details of its design of the N.C. Department of Transportation Ferry Division's newest vessel that is scheduled to join the fleet in 2019. Elliott Bay Design Group has designed a new River Class ferry that will be 183-feet-long and have room for 38 regular-sized vehicles, according to a press release. The NCDOT awarded a \$9.7 million contract in October to Bollinger Shipyards of Lockport, Louisiana. The project was funded by State Transportation Improvement Project money awarded by the Albemarle Rural Planning Organization. The new ferry will replace the 22-year-old M/V Thomas A. Baum, a Hatteras-class ferry that carries 26 vehicles across Hatteras Inlet. "This is a great first step in phasing out our smaller boats and replacing them with larger ones," said Ferry Division Director Harold Thomas. "Eventually it will allow us to increase our capacity with the same number of scheduled trips." It will be North Carolina's first new vehicle

ferry since the M/V Sea Level which was christened in 2012. It was also designed by Elliott Bay.
(OUTER BANKS VOICE, 11/29/17)

Legislative Studies and Meetings

Items in **RED** are new listings.

LB: Legislative Building

LOB: Legislative Office Building.

More Information: <http://ncleg.net/LegislativeCalendar/>

Thursday, Nov. 30

- 9:30 a.m. | House Select Committee on North Carolina River Quality, 643 LOB.

Monday, Dec. 4

- 9 a.m. | House Select Committee on Strategic Transportation Planning and Long Term Funding Solutions, NCSHP, 380 E. Tryon Rd., Raleigh.

Tuesday, Dec. 5

- 9 a.m. | The Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on General Government, 544 LOB.
- 10 a.m. | The Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee, 643 LOB.
- 11 a.m. | The Permanency Innovation Initiative Oversight Committee, 423 LOB.
- 1 p.m. | The Joint Legislative Commission on Energy Policy, 544 LOB.

Wednesday, Dec. 6

- 10 a.m. | The Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Unemployment Insurance, 544 LOB.

Thursday, Dec. 7

- 9 a.m. | The Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee, 643 LOB.

Tuesday, Dec. 12

- 8:30 a.m. | The Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services, 643 LOB.

Wednesday, Dec. 13

- 9 a.m. | The Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services, Subcommittee on Aging, 643 LOB.
- 10 a.m. | The Joint Legislative Task Force on Education Finance Reform (2017), 544 LOB.
- 1 p.m. | The Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Capital Improvements, 544 LOB.
- 1 p.m. | The Environmental Review Commission, 643 LOB.

Thursday, Dec. 14

- 9 a.m. | The Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Information Technology, 423 LOB.
- **9 a.m. | The Joint Legislative Emergency Management Oversight Committee, 544 LOB.**

Tuesday, Jan. 9

- 1 p.m. | NOTE: DATE CHANGE - The Joint Legislative Commission on Energy Policy, 544 LOB.

Wednesday, Jan. 10

- 12 p.m. | House Session, House Chamber.
- 12 p.m. | Senate Session, Senate Chamber.

Wednesday, Jan. 17

- 10 a.m. | Child Fatality Task Force Meeting, 1027/1128 LB.

Wednesday, Jan. 24

- 10 a.m. | Child Fatality Task Force Meeting, 1027/1128 LB.

Tuesday, Feb. 6

- 10 a.m. | Child Fatality Task Force Meeting, 1027/1128 LB.

Tuesday, Feb. 13

- 10 a.m. | Child Fatality Task Force Meeting, 1027/1128 LB.

N.C. Government Meetings and Hearings

Items in **RED** are new listings.

Thursday, Nov. 30

- 8 a.m. | The Central Carolina Community College Board of Trustees Special Board meets, 3000 Airport Road, Emergency Services Training Center, Sanford.
- 8 a.m. | The North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board Board meets, 1611 Jones Franklin Rd., Suite 106, Raleigh.
- 9 a.m. | NC Board of Nursing Administrative Hearings, 4516 Lake Boone Trail, Raleigh .
- 10 a.m. | The Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Partnership APNEP Science & Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) meets, 2200 Charles Boulevard, Room 1200, East Carolina University Greenville Centre, Greenville.
- 10 a.m. | The North Carolina Housing Finance Agency Board of Directors meets, 3508 Bush St., Raleigh.
- 10 a.m. | The Governor's Commission on Access to Sound, Basic Education meets, 1890 Main Campus Dr., Friday Institute for Educational Innovation, Raleigh.
- 10 a.m. | The Board of Barber Examiners hold public hearing on proposed rule changes, 5809 Departure Dr., Suite 102, Raleigh.
- 1 p.m. | The Western Carolina University Board of Trustees meets, 501 HFR Building, Cullowhee.
- 2 p.m. | The State Human Resources Commission holds public hearing on proposed rule changes, Learning Development Center, Coastal Conference Room, 101 West Peace St., Raleigh.

Monday, Dec. 4

- 1 p.m. | The state Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Board hold public hearing on proposed rule changes, 3535 Glenwood Ave, Raleigh.

- **1 p.m. | The North Carolina Science Advisory Board meets, Warick Center in Ballroom 1 at UNC Wilmington, 601 South College Road, Wilmington.**

Tuesday, Dec. 5

- 10 a.m. | The state Board of Landscape Architect holds public hearing on proposed rule changes, Bailey and Dixon, LLP, Conference Room B, 434 Fayetteville St., Suite 2500 Raleigh.
- 6 p.m. | The N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries hold public hearing on a proposed shellfish lease in Pender County, Surf City Visitor's Center, 102 North Shore Dr., Surf City.

Thursday, Dec. 7

- TBD | The Golden LEAF Foundation's board meets, TBD. Contact: Jenny Tinklepaugh, 888-684-8404.
- 9 a.m. | The NC Wildlife Resources Commission meets, 1751 Varsity Dr., Raleigh.

Tuesday, Dec. 12

- 8:30 a.m. | The Fund Development and Communications Committee of The North Carolina Partnership for Children meets via conference call. Contact: Yvonne H. Huntley, 919-821-9573.
- 9 a.m. | The NC Building Code Council holds public hearing on proposed rule changes, Albemarle Building, 325 North Salisbury St., Raleigh.

Wednesday, Dec. 13

- 9 a.m. | The State Licensing Board for General Contractors hold public hearing on proposed rule changes, 5400 Creedmoor Rd, Raleigh.
- 10 a.m. | The NC Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission meets, 400 East Tryon Road, Raleigh.

Thursday, Dec. 14

- **9 a.m. | The Board of Directors of the North Carolina State Ports Authority meets, Board Room of the North Carolina Maritime Building, 2202 Burnett Blvd., Wilmington.**
- 10 a.m. | The N.C. Rules Review Commission meets, Administrative Hearings office, Rules Review Commission Room, 1711 New Hope Church Road, Raleigh.

Thursday, Dec. 21

- 10 a.m. | The state Industrial Commission holds public hearing on proposed rule changes, Room 240, 2nd Floor, Department of Insurance's Albemarle Building, 325 North Salisbury St., Raleigh.

Wednesday, Jan. 10

- 9 a.m. | Environmental Management Commission meets, Ground Floor Hearing Room, Archdale Building, 512 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh.

Thursday, Jan. 11

- 9 a.m. | Environmental Management Commission meets, Ground Floor Hearing Room, Archdale Building, 512 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh.

UNC Board of Governors

Board Room of the UNC Center for School Leadership Development
140 Friday Center Drive, Chapel Hill (**remote meeting locations in RED**)
More Information: <https://www.northcarolina.edu/bog/schedule.php>

Friday, Dec. 15

- TBA | The UNC Board of Governors, C.S.L.D. Building, Chapel Hill.

Friday, Jan. 26, 2018

- TBA | The UNC Board of Governors, C.S.L.D. Building, Chapel Hill.

Friday, March 23, 2018

- TBA | UNC Wilmington, Wilmington.

Friday, May 25, 2018

- TBA | The UNC Board of Governors, C.S.L.D. Building, Chapel Hill.

N.C. Utilities Commission Hearing Schedule

Dobbs Building
430 North Salisbury Street
Raleigh, North Carolina
More Information: <http://www.ncuc.commerce.state.nc.us/activities/activit.htm>

Thursday, Nov. 30

- 7 p.m. | E-2 Sub 1113 ... Application for Certificate to Construct a 230 KV Transmission Line in Carteret County, Carteret County Courthouse, 300 Courthouse Square, Beaufort.

Monday, Dec. 4

- Staff Conference

Tuesday, Dec. 5

- 10 a.m. | E-2 Sub 1113 ... Application for Certificate to Construct a 230 KV Transmission Line in Carteret County, Dobbs - Commission Hearing Room, 2nd floor, Room 2115.

Wednesday, Dec. 6

- 11 a.m. | E-100 Sub 37A ... North Carolina Advanced Energy Corporation, Dobbs - Commission Hearing Room, 2nd floor, Room 2115.

Thursday, Dec. 7

- 9:30 a.m. | W-1314 Sub 1 ... Application of Pluris Webb Creek, LLC for CPCN to Provide Service to Webb Creek Water and Sewage, Inc., Dobbs - Commission Hearing Room, 2nd floor, Room 2115.

- 9:30 a.m. | W-864 Sub 14 ... Complaint and Petition for Revocation of Franchise, Dobbs - Commission Hearing Room, 2nd floor, Room 2115.

Monday, Dec. 11

- Staff Conference

Monday, Dec. 18

- Staff Conference

Tuesday, Jan. 2

- Staff Conference

N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality

The N.C. Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources has a new name - the N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality. More Information: <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/guest/home>

Wednesday, Dec. 13

- 9 a.m. | The State Consumer and Family Advisory Committee (SCFAC) meets, Dix Grill, 1101 Cafeteria Dr., Raleigh.

Other Meetings and Events of Interest

Items in **RED** are new listings.

Thursday, Nov. 30

- **10 a.m. | Gov. Cooper to attend a meeting of the Governor's Commission on Access to Sound Basic Education, Friday Institute, 1890 Main Campus Dr., Raleigh.**

Tuesday, Dec. 5

- 9 a.m. | North Carolina Bankers Association host Internal Bank Audit Seminar, Paragon Bank - 3535 Glenwood Ave., Raleigh.
- 11:30 a.m. | The N.C. Chamber host 2017 Future of North Carolina Forum - Innovation: Fueling North Carolina's Prosperity, Renaissance Raleigh North Hills Hotel | 4100 Main at North Hills St, Raleigh.

Wednesday, Jan. 3

- 10 a.m. | The 16th Annual Economic Forecast Forum, Sheraton Imperial Hotel & Convention Center, 4700 Emperor Blvd, Durham.

Monday, March 19

- TBD | The N.C. Chamber hold annual meeting, Raleigh Marriott Crabtree Valley, 4500 Marriott Dr, Raleigh.

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